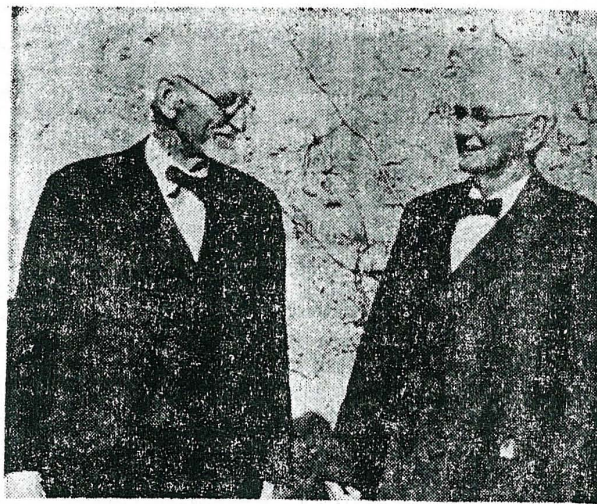


Tuesday Afternoon, January 10, 1967

Kimbrough



From left to right, taken in 1925, are the respective fathers of Will and Abby Kimbrough of Gulfport and Itta Bena. —Judge Allen McC. Kimbrough and Richmond Lewis Scott. (See story for details.)

KNOW YOUR STATE

by RAY M. THOMPSON

An Historic Resume Of Judge Allan Kimbrough

Back over two hundred years, ago, in the early 1760s, when France and England were engaged in their final death struggle for the possession of North America and Canada, the first Kimbroughs migrated from the heather and highlands of bonnie Scotland to settle on a land grant from the king in what is now Hanover County in Virginia.

Over the years the clan prospered and expanded, acquiring both property and progeny successively in North Carolina, Tennessee and finally Mississippi. Five Kimbroughs bore arms in the American Revolution and a Jacob Kimbrough fought under General Andrew Jackson at the Battle of New Orleans.

The story that follows specifically concerns one of the Mississippi born Kimbroughs—Judge Allan McCaskill Kimbrough of Greenwood, who for fifty years so loved the Gulf Coast that his family spent all their summers at Ashton Hall, where Colonial Court now stands, and whose legal acumen made it impossible in the deed of conveyance of Beauvoir to the Sons of Confederate Veterans for this historic property ever to be sold or used for any other purpose except as a Confederate Shrine to Jefferson Davis.

Judge Kimbrough was born on November 24, 1850. He was one of four children and the only son of Judge Orman Lanier Kimbrough, then a practicing attorney in Jefferson near Carrollton, Mississippi. When he was only thirteen years old, Union General Grant, then headquartered at Holly Springs, sent a detachment of troops to arrest Judge Orman Kimbrough, as a belated reprisal for his participation in the framing of that historic Mississippi Ordinance of Secession. Warned of the approaching raid, the Kimbroughs fled to Columbus, Mississippi, while their home was being plundered by the Union troops.

where the Community House now stands. A government marker shows it to be the highest point between the Mississippi River and the eastern hills.

Recognized as a law pioneer of Leflore County, his oil portrait hangs over the judge's bench in the Leflore County Court House in Greenwood, a tribute of the Leflore County Bar Association.

Judge Kimbrough, ever active in civic affairs, helped organize and was first vice president of the Bank of Greenwood, declining the presidency because of the demands of other business. This was the first banking institution in the area.

Being a devout Christian, reading a chapter of the Bible every night at family prayers, he helped organize the First Christian Church of Greenwood in his parlor along with three other families. He was made an elder for life. He was also one of the founders of the Y.M.C.A. in Greenwood. A devoted family man he was invariably met at the gate by his wife and children when he came home from the office in his buggy, one of the family posted on one of the large gateposts so they could spot him as he approached home.

An ardent and patriotic Southerner, who wished to see his state prosperous and politically sound again, he helped organize, during the Reconstruction Period, the famous Red Shirts, comparable to the Ku Klux Klan in other parts of the South at that time. In the Museum at Beauvoir is their little signal cannon, made from the shaft of the historic Star of the West. When this small cannon was fired at Greenwood it was the signal for the Red Shirts to gather, properly garbed at a previously arranged rendezvous. His muzzle-loading gun which he used during this period is also on exhibit at Beauvoir.

In the latter years of his life attorney Kimbrough was appointed chancellor of the 7th District by Governor McLaurin. He also served as judge of the Circuit Court, a title he bore the rest of his life.

Mississippi and by such will power or rather "won't quit power" secured the cooperation of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, who bought Beauvoir for \$10,000 after Mrs. Davis had refused an offer of \$80,000 from a Northern group who planned to convert it into a resort hotel. The Sons of Veterans converted it into a home for Confederate soldiers, sailors and their widows. As Mrs. Davis' attorney, Judge Kimbrough handled the deed of sale and with great foresight inserted a clause that made it impossible for the Sons to sell or use the home for any other purpose except as a shrine to the memory of Jefferson Davis. The judge and Mrs. Kimbrough both lived to see their dream come true.

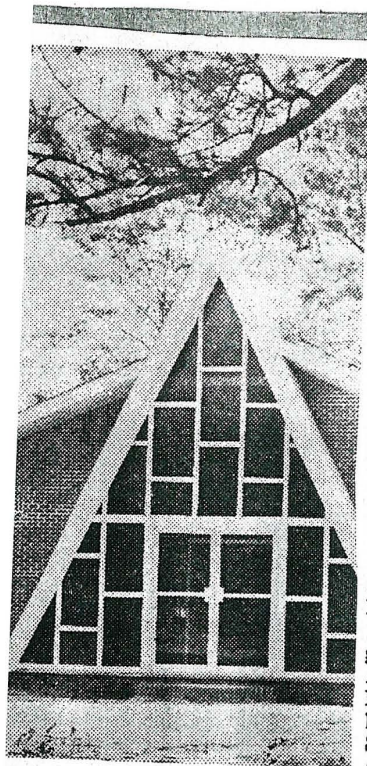
From the long and happy union of Judge and Mrs. Kimbrough ten children were born—several of them well known in Mississippi and Coast history. Their daughter Mary Craig wrote Southern Belle, practically an autobiography and an excellent word picture of the Deep South of her day. She married the internationally known author Upton Sinclair.

Five of their sons and one daughter are still living. William Poindexter, now a retired cotton planter of Itta Bena, has together with his helpmeet Abby of fifty-eight years, picked up the Beauvoir project and have added to its museum many Davis and Confederate relics. At the last convention of the Confederate Veterans at Biloxi in 1930, Abby Kimbrough was made Chief Chaperon of the South, an honorary title that can never be repeated.

Mrs. Abby Kimbrough, Chief Chaperon of the South, is the daughter of Richmond Lewis Scott, who was a courier (spy) in General Lee's army and was responsible for saving Fredricksburg from Union capture. Abby herself was a bride of distinction. The winter before her marriage Abby had won the Ladies Ice Skating Championship of Virginia. The following summer she won the Ladies Pistol and Tennis Championships of Texas and was named Beauty Queen of Virginia.

Mary Craig Kimbrough in her book Southern Belle paints many word pictures of her father Judge Kimbrough during the fifty summers he enjoyed on the Coast. She recalls how each morning, dressed in a freshly laundered seersucker suit, he would stroll to the beach to watch several of the house slaves haul in the seine filled with seafood—crabs, shrimp, fish of all kinds—necessary additions to the family larder, as Ashton Hall always had guests to be fed.

At the death of his wonderful wife who had marched at his side for half century he was heard to remark sadly "I'd give the rest of my life just to hold her in my arms once more." Five years after her death Judge Kimbrough at the age of 80 joined her.



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Howard, church the congregation

wished the wood frame str ture moved out wholesale, i could be sold, to provide street parking.

The new church is of maso construction, with an A—fr entranceway. It contains sanctuary, six Sunday sch rooms, a kitchen, two restroc and a pastor's study. The bu ing committee, headed by D con Cornelius Hanshaw, cludes Robert Buford, Dai Harris, Alfonse Williams , Pringle Jordan.

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The Yankees broke into the wine cellar and got hilariously drunk on its contents, the high point of their carousal being the mock ball they put on all dressed up in Mrs. Kimbrough's fine dresses. The next morning, with a king size hangover they burned the house and casually departed.

Only fifteen years old when the war ended, young Allan Kimbrough resumed his education. He attended Carrollton Masonic Academy and graduated from the University of Virginia in 1873 with a law degree. While at the University, Allan was active in the PSI fraternity of America and was president of the Washington Literary Society. After graduation he immediately opened a law office in Carrollton, but transferred his office to Greenwood the next year. He became active in Woodmen of the World and Knights of Pythias. The Judge, a staunch Democrat, was chairman of the county Democratic Executive Committee during 1875 and '76, which wound up Reconstruction.

For the next three decades he successfully combined jurisprudence, banking and the operation of a cotton plantation with numerous civic duties. It is a matter of public record that he was the LeFlore County Superintendent of Schools from 1888 to 1892, but it is known by very few that during that entire time he endorsed his salary checks over to the building fund for the Confederate Monument that was erected on the old Capitol grounds in Jackson. The old fashioned urress he used as Superintendent of Scrools is now on display at Beauvoir.

He gave the town of Itta Bena the lot for its first school,

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November 10, 1880, was the Red Letter Day of Allan Kimbrough's life. On that day he married Mary Hunter Southworth. This charming and talented young lady was a direct descendant of Lady Alice Southworth who came from England to Plymouth, Massachusetts, on the ship "Ann" in 1621, just a year after the Mayflower. Lady Alice later married Governor Bradford of Massachusetts and was considered the most brilliant woman of her day in the Colonies.

The new Mrs. Allan Kimbrough was a niece of Major William Henry Morgan who in the Civil War laid the first mine in the history of modern warfare in Deer Creek, Mississippi, successfully blowing up a Federal gunboat making possible the capture of several other gunboats that were ascending the Sunflower River.

Mrs. Kimbrough was not only a woman of great beauty, she was also an author and civic leader. She was one person most responsible for the existence today of beautiful Beauvoir as a Confederate Shrine. She and Judge Kimbrough were close friends and neighbors of Varina and Jefferson Davis. Their summer home, Ashton Hall, was only a short distance from Beauvoir.

It was through their efforts—after Jefferson Davis had died and Mrs. Davis was visiting with Mrs. Kimbrough at Greenwood, that the then empty Beauvoir required repairs to the roof after a violent tropical storm. From then on Mrs. Kimbrough made the home her personal project. When the Daughters of the Confederacy failed to support her project she aroused general public atten—

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